

How Does One Become a Public Member of a Legislative Council Study Committee?

A list of potential study committees is generally available on the Legislative Council staff website by the first of May of even-numbered years. If you would like to participate as a public member of one of these committees, send a nomination letter. Please include a resume and statement expressing your interest and expertise in the subject area of the study committee of your choice to:

Terry C. Anderson, Director,
Wisconsin Legislative Council,
P.O. Box 2536, Madison, WI,
53701-2536.

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Supporting Effective Lawmaking Since 1947

What is the Wisconsin Joint Legislative Council?

The Wisconsin Joint Legislative Council, or Legislative Council, is a 22-member legislative committee established by state law which includes all of the legislative leadership as well as additional legislators. The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the Assembly, or their appointees, serve as its co-chairs. The Legislative Council is served by the Legislative Council staff, a nonpartisan legislative agency that provides legal services and policy research for legislators and the committees of the Legislature.



What are Legislative Council Study Committees?

During the summer and fall interim of each even-numbered year, the Legislative Council selects a number of subjects for study from suggestions submitted by members of the Legislature. Often these topics are issues that are difficult to resolve in the regular course of legislative business or that legislators feel require further consideration prior to the introduction of legislation. Each subject is appointed a study committee comprised of legislative and public members with expertise or interest in the issue. The study committees are chaired by legislators. Each committee is charged by the Legislative Council to study their issue and recommend legislative solutions as needed. Study committees generally meet from three to six times during the interim and ultimately report their recommendations, in the form of bill drafts, to the full Legislative Council for approval and introduction in the next legislative session. Committee meetings usually begin mid-morning and continue through the entire day.

Where are Legislative Council Study Committee Meetings Held?

Legislative Council study committees meet in Madison, either in the Capitol or at the Legislative Council staff offices. Occasionally, committees may meet in other parts of the state as the committee chair deems necessary.

Why Serve as a Public Member of a Legislative Council Study Committee?

The study committees provide a unique opportunity for the public to become directly involved in the formulation of public policy. Public members not only participate in meetings, lending their perspective on the issues, they vote on the proposals intended to resolve these issues. Although public members are not paid for their participation on the study committees, they are entitled to receive reimbursement for certain travel expenses, including mileage, parking, meals, and overnight stays, if necessary.